

Charles Craft Impact Award

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Mission: To empower youth voices in the community and recognize the impactful role that educators have in youth's lives.

Executive Summary

The Charles Craft Impact Award project was created to acknowledge impactful educators across Shelby County through a student-based nomination process. According to the Search Institute's 2012- 2015 survey of around 121,000 U.S. teenagers, only 25% felt that adults in their community valued youth. Our project team aimed to send young people the message that their voices are important to the residents of Shelby County and that they are our future. We wanted them to be involved in the community in a meaningful way-- And what could be more meaningful than being able to recognize the countless hours teachers put in to ensure the success of their futures?

Our team engaged all five Shelby County high schools by contacting each school's principal to get feedback on the school's willingness to participate and best methods for nomination among their respective students. All five principals were enthusiastic about being involved in the project. Several schools decided they wanted students to nominate their teachers in their own creative way and Triton's principal suggested a Google form that could be sent out to his students. Nomination forms were sent out to juniors and seniors at all five

county high schools, asking students to describe the way their chosen teacher had impacted them. By the submission deadline, 71 students had nominated teachers who had made a positive influence in their lives.

We decided to name the award in honor of Charles Craft, a retired educator of many years in the Shelby County school system. Mr. Craft had a lasting impact on his students' lives which followed them into adulthood. His dedication to passionately teaching students, both academic and life lessons, inspired the slogan behind the award: "Igniting bright futures for Shelby County's Youth."

Next, our team was tasked with determining winning teachers at each school. We decided that the criteria we were looking for was the teacher impacting the student both academically and personally, not necessarily the teacher with the most votes. We reviewed each of the 71 responses and selected a winner from each participating school.

Award recipients were surprised at their schools with an award plaque, a \$200 check, a gift certificate for Indiana Grand's Center Cut Steakhouse, and a copy of the nominating student's response.

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